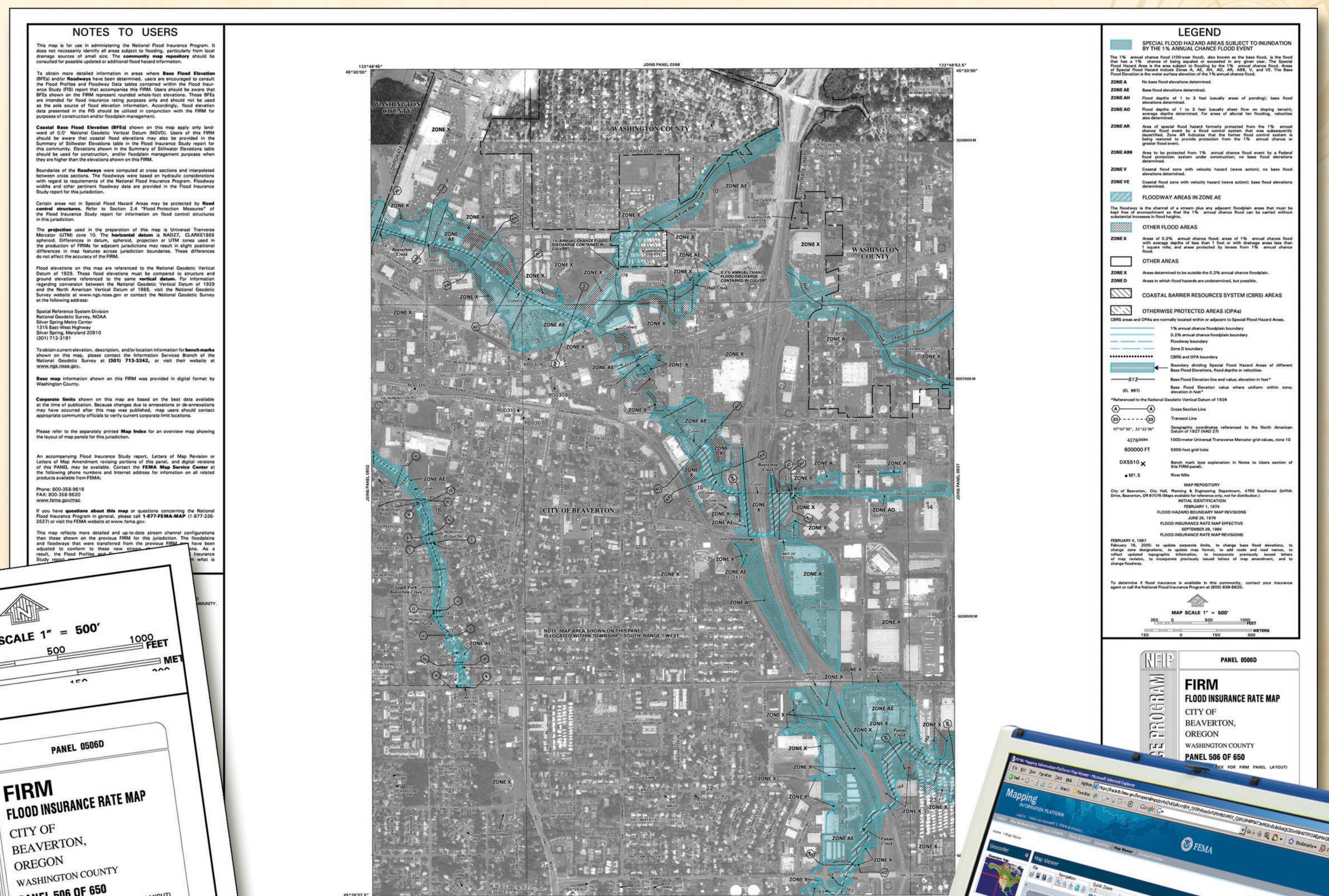# FEMA Digital Flood Hazard Data Products

Since the 1970s, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided flood hazard maps to help manage and reduce risk for the more than 20,000 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Using Digital Maps

Since FEMA began distributing digital versions of maps and allowing their use for official purposes, the demand for paper maps has been reduced by 50 percent. Large map users can maintain a small library of CDs rather than rooms filled with paper maps. As directed in the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, FEMA implemented a policy allowing the use of the DFIRM Database GIS data for all official NFIP purposes. DFIRM database users have a much more powerful tool for flood risk management, insurance activities, and disaster operations. Users can integrate accurate and timely local data with FEMA's flood hazard data to support their work on the NFIP and help streamline processes.
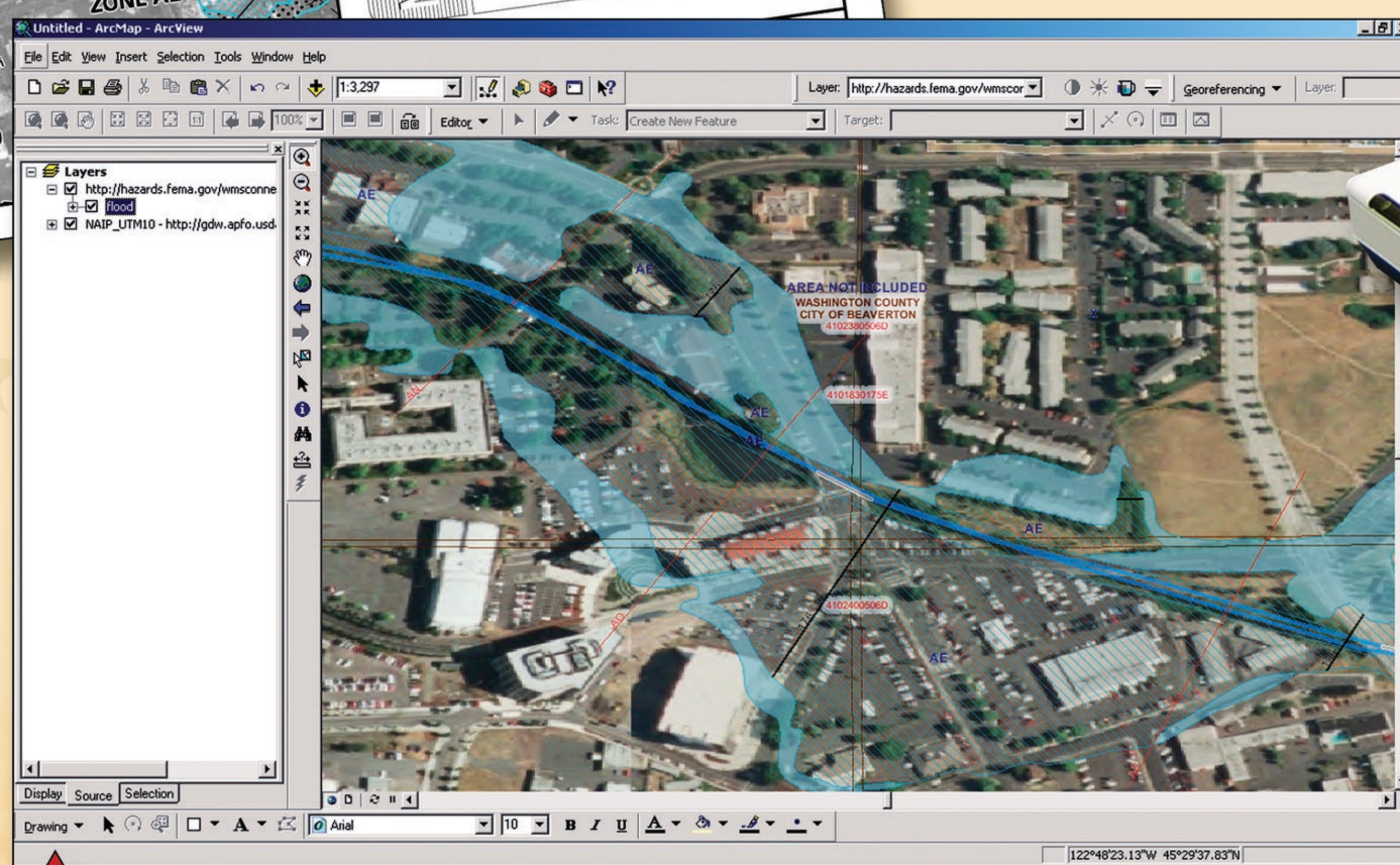
Beaverton, Oregon FIRM

All paper flood maps are also available as Flood Insurance Rate Map Scan images (FIRM Scan). The images are digital pictures of the flood maps that can be downloaded or delivered on CD and viewed and printed on a computer. The images provide a simple, convenient alternative to paper maps. www.msc.fema.gov

Beaverton, Oregon FIRMette

A FIRMette can be printed on a standard office printer and is the simplest way to see flood hazard information for a specific location. It shows a section of the official FIRM and includes the scale, north arrow, and map identification information needed for NFIP activities. The FIRMette can be used in all aspects of the NFIP, including floodplain management, flood insurance, and enforcement of mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements. Users can create a FIRMette for free on the Map Service Center (MSC) website: www.msc.fema.gov.

Beaverton, Oregon DFIRM Database Product

Geographic Information System (GIS) users can use the DFIRM Database product, which is a digital data product designed for use with specialized GIS software. Using the DFIRM database in a GIS provides a mapping and analysis tool that is much more powerful than traditional map products. The databases can be downloaded or delivered on CD from the MSC and are available for many of the highest flood risk areas. GIS users can also access the GIS flood data as a Web Mapping Service (WMS). Go to the Tools and Links page on www.hazards.fema.gov for information on the WMS.

DFIRM Map Viewer

The DFIRM Map Viewer provides online GIS capabilities for users who want to do more than the simple FIRMette product allows. Users have greater control over the display of flood hazard data and other mapping information shown on the Map Viewer, including the ability to combine the flood hazard information with maps of other hazards. www.hazards.fema.gov

FEMA

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